

Bulletin

NCJWSM

Vol. 24, No. 3

April/May 2019

www.ncjwgrs.org

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National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

COMING EVENTS

APRIL

WED / 10
General Board Mtg.
7:00 p.m.
Temple B'rith Kodesh

THU / 11
Men's Event
Temple B'rith Kodesh

FRI-SAT / 19-27
Passover

MAY

THU / 2
Yom Hashoah
(Holocaust
Memorial Day)

SUN / 5
Hannah G.
Solomon /
Woman of
the Year
11:00 a.m.
Irondequoit
Country Club

THU / 9
Yom Ha'atzmaut
(Israel
Independence Day)

SUN / 12
Cancer Walk

WED / 15
General Board Mtg.
7:00 p.m.
Temple B'rith Kodesh

Please Join the
National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

for our 2019 Recognition Brunch

Honoring



Hannah G. Solomon
Award Recipient
Ellen Smith
Chapter President
No One Left Behind
Rochester, NY

&

NCJW
Woman of the Year
Marilyn Fain Fenster



May 5, 2019

Registration starts at 10:30 a.m.
Event starts at 11:00 a.m.

Irondequoit Country Club
4045 East Avenue
Rochester, NY

Watch for your invitation!
Or register now at <http://www.ncjwgrs.org/>
Questions? Contact Vancy Boyar at Info@ncjwgrs.org

**NCJW,GRS
Officers & Directors
2018 - 2019**

President
Amy Stein

VP Membership
Debi Brenner

VP Administration
Donna Cohen

Treasurer
Ellie Rosenbloom

Financial Secretary
Ronny Frishman

Recording Secretary
Jennifer Loviglio

*Immediate Past
Presidents*
Vancy Boyar
Soralee Cook

President Elect
Jane Amstey

Directors

Linda Bice

Rikki Brodsky

Nancy Chodak

Brenda Comisar

Marilyn Fenster

Arielle Foti

Sandy Frankel

Barbara Grosh

Gloria Kaplan

Melissa Pheterson

Terri Richardson

Pauline Rutberg

Arlene Schenker

Cathy Schneider

Ruth Sklarsky

Randi Fox Tabb

Nancy Gabrielsen-
Tinnis

Stacey Trien

Lisa Waltzer

Rona Wyner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"It is not your responsibility to finish the work of perfecting the world, but you are not free to desist from it either." Rabbi Tarfon, Pirke Avot 2:21

NCJW has been doing the work for nearly 125 years in Rochester! We look forward to celebrating this important milestone with all of you on September 15, 2019. After 125 years of programs and services, there is still a lot to do.

Our section is working to improve the lives of women, children and families. We do this through hands-on volunteer work and educational opportunities to help us understand how we can take action to make the world better – locally and beyond. Our scope is big and our reach is wide and diverse.

We helped our neighbors meet basic needs with two projects: PAD and Spread the Love. Our PAD Project (Providing Access and Dignity) supplies pads, panty liners and tampons to girls and women who would not otherwise have them. Through our Spread the Love Project, we distributed socks, hats and gloves (and some Valentine's Day treats) to residents on the Fifth Street Block, near the Public Market.

We also held an educational event about our environment and learned

how we can help make a change for the better right now. There was an opportunity to send letters to our legislators, as well as suggestions of immediate actions that we can take, both individually and together, to help repair the world.

We are lucky to have the Susan B. Anthony House in our own backyard. NCJW members took advantage of this and visited the house together in February. We have come so far, yet there is much more work to be done. To help us continue to move forward, we will hold a Men's Event for Gender Equality at 7:00 p.m., April 11, at Temple B'rith Kodesh. We are excited to offer a program that will inspire men (and women) and give them some tools so they can better support the issue of gender equity in the workplace, in the community and in everyday life.

We are honored to be doing this work. We can't do it alone. We need your help! We need you to advocate with us! We need you to invest in us! We need you participate with us!

Thank you very much for being a member and being connected to the Greater Rochester Section of NCJW. ⚡

Amy Stein, President
amysteinncjw@gmail.com

PINK RIBBON WALK & RUN

May 12, 2019

Inviting all members to join TEAM NCJW for this important event. All of the funds raised stay in Rochester to help women with breast cancer and to educate everyone about this insidious disease. Everyone knows someone touched by this disease.

I already registered. Please join me. Remember to sign up with TEAM NCJW. The cost is only \$25 [includes a pink t-shirt, but it would be great to wear our green NCJW shirts if you have one].

The more friends who participate, the more fun we'll have!

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Rochester/PinkRibbonWalkandRun> ⚡

Thanks!
Randi Fox Tabb

LEARNING HOW TO SAVE OUR PLANET

On a balmy January evening, a group of about 70 concerned community members gathered at Temple B'rith Kodesh to hear some bad news and some good news about global warming and climate change. The bad news was pretty dire, but most of us are already aware of the polar ice cap shrinking, the rising of the seas, alarming pollution and asthma rates, the extreme heat, and extreme cold. As I write this, Rochester children are home from school, avoiding frostbite from a wind chill of 23 degrees below zero, and we are all learning about the polar vortex that is now escaping the Arctic due to global warming. At the same time, Australia is suffering from 115-degree temperatures, its hottest summer temperature on record. Of course, different areas of the U.S. have already lived through serious droughts, ferocious forest fires, outsized "1,000-year" storms, and dangerous flooding.

All this was reported in detail by our first speaker, Norma Polizzi, an environmental lawyer. Norma attended a 3-day training by Al Gore and his Climate Reality Project and gave us a shortened version of that presentation. Sobering as it was, we are hoping that it will spur the

attendees to action. The website for the Climate Reality Project is listed at the end of this article.

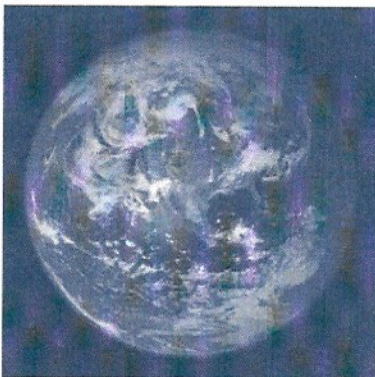
Now for the good news: Global warming is actually REVERSIBLE if we all take the frightening reports to heart and mobilize for action. Our second speaker, **Sue Staropoli**, acquainted us with the Drawdown project, a report of 100 actions that were meticulously researched by scientists and engineers and which we can tackle now with existing technology. Sue is an active member of the Rochester Alliance of Pachamama, a worldwide organization that has taken on the job of spreading the word about Drawdown globally, nationally and locally. Pachamama runs 2-hour introductory sessions and 4-week training courses where participants can explore what action area might interest them and network with others similarly interested. The schedule for these courses in Rochester, and much more information, can be accessed from the Pachamama website below. I urge everyone to pitch in to start reversing global warming. This effort needs a hands-on approach from all. According to a recent UN report, time is running out. We must work together to

maintain a livable planet for us, our children and our grandchildren.

I want to thank Rabbi Rochelle Tulik for an enlightening introduction to our program, linking it with the recent holiday of Tu B'Shevat and the Torah injunction to care for the earth. Thank you also to our environmental co-sponsors who had representatives present to network with attendees. Links to their websites follow as well. Finally, thank you to my program co-chair, **Barbara Grosh**, and our dedicated committee members: **Debby Kornfeld**, **Ruth Rappaport-Kristal**, **Sarah Lobe**, **Gail Finkelstein**, and **Jackie Ebner**.

It's worth noting that Drawdown solutions 6 and 7 are educating girls around the world and global family planning, both long-held priorities for NCJW. If these two solutions are combined, we have the number one solution with the greatest impact on reversing global warming. Thank you NCJW for helping to save the planet while striving to empower women and girls. ♫

Arlene Schenker Co-chair,
Repairing the Planet II



Websites:

<https://connect.pachamama.org/group/65/about>

<https://www.climaterealityproject.org/>

<https://colorbrightongreen.org/>

<https://impactearthroc.com/>

<https://rocpc.org/>

<https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>

https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/NY_Rochester/

HANNAH G. SOLOMON AWARD RECIPIENT

Ellen Smith of No One Left Behind

Resettlement of SIVs "her personal mission"

Fleeing the ravages and violence of war, pursued by ISIS or the Taliban, immigrants who have served with the American troops and contractors in Afghanistan or Iraq are designated by the U.S. as special immigrant visa (SIV) refugees. Those who arrive in Rochester are literally embraced by the warmth and protection of Ellen Smith, president of No One Left Behind's (NOLB) Rochester Chapter. Whatever the weather, time of day or night, Ellen is there, at the Rochester International Airport, with her contagious smile and reassuring hug. She is always holding a "WELCOME TO ROCHESTER" sign that has been personalized for every new arrival along with flowers and American flags.

This is all part of Ellen's gracious ritual, assisted by dedicated volunteers and currently settled SIVs. One can only imagine what goes through the minds of these arriving individuals and their families, all of whom have been traveling for days to get here. This is merely the threshold to their new world and only the beginning of what Ellen provides on an ongoing basis.

From the time that a SIV is designated to arrive in Rochester, Ellen begins the complex process of the individual's settlement, learning about each person and tailoring his or her living space to meet specific needs. She takes on the resettlement of each SIV as her

needs. She takes on the resettlement of each SIV as her personal mission. She obtains an apartment, ensures that it is cleaned by her and volunteers, fully furnished, decorated and filled with food. NOLB pays the first month's rent. Ellen coordinates with Catholic Family Center to facilitate the necessary paperwork for green cards, benefits, medical appointments and school enrollment.



Ellen's home is literally Command Central for NOLB Rochester. As NOLB has grown, volunteers have been able to assist with many of the complexities of resettlement. "Caring Circles" of volunteers for each individual or family have been formed to aid in that process.

Employment is a primary focus. A committee helps assess and place SIVs. Once a job is obtained, an SIV becomes eligible for a modest car through the NOLB "Wheels to Work" program. This allows for successful job stability and access to shopping and services in the community.

As the leader of NOLB, Ellen is the advocate, counselor, mother, cultural advisor and emergency contact. When there is an individual or family crisis, Ellen is there. She is tireless, tenacious and determined. Her ever growing fleet of volunteers feels as much allegiance to her as to the SIVs they serve and support. ≧

2019 WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Marilyn Fain Fenster

Before she joined NCJW 30 years ago, **Marilyn Fain Fenster** said she "didn't realize there were women like me doing what I wanted to be doing in the world." An NCJW project called Day of Working Mothers drew her in.

"My kids were little and I was managing kids and a job," she said. "We delivered gift packages to other busy working moms to help them feel valued and important."

Marilyn started going to more NCJW events and becoming active. "I wanted to help. I offered to do the bulletin for two years," she said. "It's been close to 30!"

The bulletin, which is mailed to over 300 members several times a year, is a major undertaking. Over time, however, Marilyn and other stalwart volunteers like **Donna Cohen** and **Ronny Frishman** have streamlined the process. Donna puts together the outline, Marilyn edits the articles and Ronny proofreads all the drafts. Then Marilyn works with the designer at her husband's printing and promotional products company to lay it out and print it.

"Marilyn has provided years of valuable support for NCJW," incoming president **Jane Amstey** said. "Her talents for writing and editing are invaluable."

A teacher at Harley School, Marilyn has enriched the community immeasurably over the years with both her professional

activities include being a career counselor at area universities and Jewish Family Service and serving as a volunteer coordinator for the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN). Marilyn is on the Board of Trustees at Temple Sinai and has served on the boards of other non-profits over the years. She teaches kindergarten at Temple Sinai and is most proud of her summer work with Horizons, an enrichment program for low-income youths.

Because she works behind the scenes, Marilyn has a somewhat low profile with NCJW. But members who know how much she has contributed value her dedication to the organization. "Marilyn is my friend, my sister in spirit and is committed to helping others," said **Donna Cohen**, a past president. "She is not only smart and creative. She cares!"

Marilyn, in turn, enjoys her NCJW friends and colleagues: "We are Jewish women from all walks of life who share common values."

Marilyn's husband, Rémy Fenster, is a self-employed brand manager. They have two grown sons: Jason, 33, is an assistant rabbi at a Reform congregation in Deerfield, Ill., where he lives with his wife Gavi and 1-year-old son, Benjamin; Aaron, 31, lives in Washington, D.C., and is the COO of a not-for-profit that provides affordable housing for people with mental health challenges. ≧



Susan B. Anthony House tour given to NCJW members:
Ronny Frishman, Terri Richardson, Brenda Comisar, Nancy Tinnes, Lisa Waltzer, Debbie Waltzer, Jennifer Loviglio and Sora Lee Cook.

P.A.D. PROJECT UPDATE

Members of Greater Rochester Association for Women Attorneys (GRAWA) and their families held a successful kit party on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21, 2019. Volunteers assembled 150

kits, which they donated to Wilson Commencement Park, whose mission is to provide comprehensive resources and services to low-income single-parent families, and to Refugees Helping Refugees, a non-profit organization that serves refugees of Western New York. **Soralee Cook, Mollie Traub, and Gina Horowitz** worked as NCJW, GRS ambassadors to the event. ≧



NCJW,GRS 2019-2021 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Executive Board – two-year term

1. President- **Jane Amstey**
2. President-elect-TBA
3. Treasurer- **Ellie Rosenbloom**
4. VP Administration-**Lisa Waltzer**
5. VP Membership-**Debi Brenner (2020)**
6. Financial Secretary-**Brenda Comisar**
7. Recording Secretary-**Jennifer Loviglio**
8. Immediate Past President-**Amy Stein**

DIRECTORS-Continuing (one-year term ending June 2020)

Donna Cohen- to be elected

Soralee Cook- to be elected

Melissa Pheterson

Terri Richardson

Stacey Trien

DIRECTORS- (two-year term ending June 2021)

Rikki Brodsky

Linda Bice

Marilyn Fenster

Sandra Frankel

Barbara Grosh

Pauline Rutberg

Cathy Schneider

Wendy Strauss

Randi Fox Tabb

Nancy Gabrielsen Tinnes

Kathye Simon

Sarah Lobe

HONORARY BOARD MEMBER

Gloria Kaplan

Nominating Committee for 2019-2021 Slate

Co-chairs, **Soralee Cook and Vancy Boyar**

Ronny Frishman, previous chair nonvoting

Jane Amstey

Judy Azoff

Debi Brenner

Ruth Rapport Kristal

Lisa Waltzer

Amy Stein

Remember to check out our website
for the latest NCJW,GRS news:
www.ncjwgrs.org

CONSIDER COLLEGE - NEXT GENERATION

I accompanied **Peg McNamara** to Barnes & Noble on January 30 where she bought books for children of Consider College mentees.

Some of the titles she selected were *First Colors, Shapes and Numbers; In my Heart*; the bilingual version of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*; and my personal favorite, *Never Feed a Yeti Spaghetti*.

There are currently 12 children in the program. The oldest is 8 and the youngest is 1 month. Briana already has an extensive library for her daughter, Briell, and Viviana's mother-in-law has shipped a dozen books to Alaska for her 1-month-old grandchild, Shaquan. I received a thank-you note from Lucy saying that she was reading *Wonderful Things You Will Be* to Mason at that very moment.

We are having fun selecting some of the books in Spanish and we're focusing on books that have characters of varied genders, abilities and colors.

At this point, I have volunteer shoppers for March, April and May. I will return in June to invite you to sign up for the rest of the year. The activity takes less than an hour and gives us an opportunity to remember some favorite books from our own childhoods (*Pat the Bunny*) and those of our children and grandchildren. Also, the cash register receipt includes a coupon for a free cookie, and that's not nothing! ☺

Mollie Traub

SPREAD THE LOVE

Finding a need and filling it, connecting with women across the community, getting out of our individual comfort zones.

Open any of our coat closets or dressers and you will most likely find hats, gloves and many pairs of mis-matched socks. Unfortunately to many across our community these items are a luxury. As the temperature plummeted this winter NCJW partnered with 5th Street Block Club at New Hope Free Methodist Church to create bags of hats, gloves, socks, candy and valentines to spread love to our neighbors. Throughout the



month of January, members of our section, our friends, and our families generously donated. Thank you to all who donated time, supplies and made monetary contributions to allow us to fill the bags with over 200 sets of winter items.

Special thanks to Rabbi Peter Stein for helping us with a large shipment of gloves and socks; **Cindy Finestone** for the reusable red bags; **Margery Rosen** for her contribution that allowed us to purchase Valentine's candy and hats; **Jane Amstey** for introducing this amazing group of women to NCJW. Many thanks also to **Amy Stein** for the initial idea, the many extra hats and her time. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who spent an afternoon at the church with us assembling the bags. We had fun! Thank



tion that allowed us to purchase Valentine's candy and hats; **Jane Amstey** for introducing this amazing group of women to NCJW. Many thanks also to **Amy Stein** for the initial idea, the many extra hats and her time. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who spent an afternoon at the church with us assembling the bags. We had fun! Thank



you to those who joined us on Sunday February 10 as we distributed the bags in the 5th Street neighborhood. We gained so much more than we gave. New friendships and a community partnership were at the core of what made this a project where we spread and received love! ☺

Terri Richardson



MORE NEW MEMBERS

NCJW,GRS is always pleased to welcome new members. We learn and grow as our new members share their ideas for events or projects. If you have a friend or relative or have just met someone you think may be interested in NCJW please let me know. Send a note to debi.brenner@gmail.com with their name and email and I will immediately contact them.

We are pleased to welcome these recent new members:

Rina Schnauer
Norma A. Polizzi

Shari Woldenberg
Sue Staropoli

Lisa Luxemburg
Jacqui Lipschitz

Nancy Levine

Debi Brenner, VP of Membership



National Council of Jewish Women
Greater Rochester Section

**P.O. Box 92444
Rochester, NY 14692**

TIME VALUE

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Rochester, NY

OR CURRENT RESIDENT



Save the Date: Sunday, September 15, 2019
For the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Greater Rochester Section
125 Years - Making Change Happen
at Temple B'rith Kodesh



MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

Change of address?

If you have a change or correction of address, please contact
Ronny Frishman at
frishetta@gmail.com